BOROUGH OF RUTHIN

ANNUAL

HEALTH REPORT

1973

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Medical Officers of Health:	M.T. ISLWYN JONES, M.D., B.S., F.F.C.M., D.P.H. (Lond) M.R.C.S. (Eng) L.R.C.P. (Lond)
	A.L.J. WILLIAMS, M.B., B.S., (Lond), M.F.C.M., D.P.H. (Wales) A.K.C., D.R.C.O.G.
	County Council Clinic, Mount Street, RUTHIN, Denbighshire. LL15 1BH
	Tel. Ruthin 2361/2
Part-time Clerical Assistant:	Mrs. C. Cooper
Public Health Inspector & Surveyor	A.S. FIDLING, M.A.P.H.I., M.R.S.H., A.C.S.I.,
Clerical Assistant:	Miss B. Owen Town Hall, RUTHIN, Denbighshire.
	Tel. Ruthin 2855

I'r Maer, Henaudriaid, a Chynghorwyr o Cyngor Trefol Rhuthun,
Mr. Maer, Henaduriaid, a Chynghorwyr,

Y mae'n fraint i gael danfon yr awolwg terfynol ar iechyd Bwrdeisdref Ruthin atoch am y flwyddyn 1973.

Fe baratowyd yr ystadegau o ddogennau a gadwyd gan yr Adran Iechyd, ac er nad ydynt yn hollol gywir, y maent yn ddigon agos i'n sicrhau fod safon cyffredinol iechyd wedi ei gynnal yn foddhaol yn ystod y flwyddyn ddiwethaf. Yn y gorffennol, bu'n arferol i aros am ystadegau'r Cofrestrydd Cyffredinol a oedd yn cynnwys manylion am enedigaethau a marwolaethau ymhlith babanod a mamau, ond fe fyddai aros am hyn wedi golygu gweithredu ar ôl ad-drefniad yr Awdurdod. Roeddem ni, eich swyddogion, yn teimlo y dylid gwneud pob ymdrech i gyflwyno'r bennod olaf ar iechyd y dref, cyn i'r llyfr recordiau gau am byth. Y mae'n wych o beth fod yr ystadegau am y flwyddyn olaf yn foddhaol, ac nad oes ynddynt unrhyw arwydd o styngiad sydyn yn safonau iechyd, ond yn hytrach, pob arwydd o gynnydd amlwg.

Yn ystod 1973 fe fu nifer o newidiadau a fu'n baratoadau tuag at yr ad-drefniad yn 1974. Y mae'n drist i weld hen Fwrdeisdref Ruthin yn diflannu, ond yn ddiamau, y mae ei chyfraniad i iechyd a chynnydd cymdeithasol yn sylfaen gadarn i'r dyfodol.

Fe fu'n fraint i Dr. Lynn Williams a minnau i wasanaethu Bwrdeisdref Ruthin, ac fe hoffem ein dau, ddiolch i'r swyddogion i gyd am eu cymorth a'u cyd-weithrediad parod bob amser. Fe hoffem ddweud hefyd ein bod yn teimlo'n ddyledus dros ben i'r aelodau am eu diddordeb brwd a'u cymorth parod i wasanaethau iechyd y Fwrdeisdref yn sylfaen gadarn i unrhyn ddatblygiandau yn y dyfodol.

M.T. ISILWYN JONES

A.L.J. WILLIAMS
Swyddogion Meddygol Iechyd.

Ionawr 1974

To the Mayor, Aldermen and Councillors of Ruthin Borough Council.
Mr. Mayor, Aldermen and Councillors,

It is a privilege to submit the final report on the health of Ruthin Borough for the year 1973.

The statistics have been prepared from records maintained by the Health Department and although they are not strictly accurate, they are sufficiently so, to be able to affirm that the general standard of health has been satisfactorily maintained during the past year. Previously, it was customary to await the Registrar General's returns which had taken into account the transfer in and out of deaths, births, infant and maternal mortality but this would have meant waiting until after the dissolution of the Authority. We, your officers, felt that it was desirable to make every effort to include the last chapter on health before finally closing the record book. It is gratifying that the statistics for this final year are satisfactory and that there has been no sudden or serious deterioration in health standards but rather that there has been a maintenance of steady progress.

During 1973, there have been many changes which are merely preparatory to the reorganisation in 1974. It is sad that the ancient Borough of Ruthin should disappear but undoubtedly, its various contributions to health and social progress will form firm foundations for further progress.

Dr. Lynn Williams and I feel privileged to have been allowed to serve the Ruthin Borough and we both wish to thank all the officers for their unfailing help and co-operation. We would also record our indebtedness to all the members for their constant interest and enthusiastic support, of the health services. We hope that our contribution to the health of the Borough will form a firm foundation for future developments.

M.T. ISLWYN JONES

A.L.J. WILLIAMS

Medical Officers of Health

January, 1974

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The Mayor of the Borough and the Chairman of the Health Committees during the year were as follows:-

Mayor of the Borough:

May, 1973 - April, 1974 - Councillor Trevor Field

Chairman of the Housing and Public Health Committee:

May, 1973 - April, 1974 - Councillor Mrs Margaret Roberts.

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GENERAL STATISTICS OF THE BOROUGH

Area of the Borough.....	2,016 acres
Registrar General's estimated mid-year home population (1972) ...	4,620
Rateable Value	£449.005
Sum represented by a penny rate	£4250.00

The number of inhabited houses was 1739 compared with 1713 in 1972.

..... 0 .....

Cause	Sex	All Ages	25/34	35/44	45/54	55/64	65/74	75 & Over
Gastro Enteritis	M	1	-	-	-	-	-	1
	F	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Malignant Neoplasm Stomach	M	1	-	-	-	-	-	1
	F	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Malignant Neoplasm Intestine	M	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
	F	2	-	-	-	-	-	2
Malignant Neoplasm of Lung	M	4	-	-	-	3	1	-
	F	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Malignant Neoplasm of Blood Forming Organs	M	1	-	-	-	1	-	-
	F	1	-	-	-	-	1	-
Malignant Neoplasm Breast	F	1	-	-	-	1	-	-
Malignant Neoplasm Prostate	M	1	-	-	-	-	-	1
Prostatic Hypertrophy	M	1	-	-	-	-	-	1
Hypertensive Disease	M	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
	F	1	-	-	-	-	-	1
Ischaemic Heart Disease	M	9	-	-	-	1	5	3
	F	12	-	-	-	-	6	6
Cerebrovascular Disease	M	6	-	-	-	1	2	3
	F	8	-	-	-	-	2	6
Other Diseases of Circulatory System	M	2	-	-	-	-	1	1
	F	3	-	-	-	-	1	2
Disease of Nervous System	M	1	-	-	-	-	1	-
	F	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Pneumonia	M	3	-	-	-	-	-	3
	F	4	-	-	-	-	1	3
Bronchitis & Emphysema	M	5	-	-	-	2	2	1
	F	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Peptic Ulcer	M	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
	F	1	-	-	-	-	-	1
Other Diseases of Alimentary Tract	M	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
	F	1	-	1	-	-	-	-

Continued.....

Cause	Sex	All Ages	25/34	35/44	45/54	55/64	65/74	75 & Over
Influenza	M	2	-	1	-	1	-	-
	F	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Road Transport Accident	M	1	1	-	-	-	-	-
	F	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Total	M	38	1	1	-	9	12	15
	F	34	-	1	-	1	11	21

The total deaths numbered 72, almost equally divided between males and females. It is gratifying to record that no deaths occurred in the age groups 0/24 years, and only 3 deaths in the 25/54 year age group. Over 80% of all deaths occurred in people over the age of 65 years.

The pattern of causes of deaths remain similar to the preceeding years in that the most important single cause of death is Ischaemic Heart Disease, which caused 21 deaths, followed by Cerebrovascular disease which caused 14 deaths, Neoplastic disease which caused 11 deaths.

BIRTHS

Comparability Factor 1.12 (1972)

Number of births relating to residents: 84

The hospital in Ruthin has a maternity unit which also caters for the surrounding areas. Births relating to residents in the Borough also take place in hospitals in adjoining areas. The births were 25 more than in 1972.

	Ruthin Borough 1972	Ruthin Borough 1973
Crude Birth Rate (per 1,000 home population)	12.8	18.2
Corrected Birth Rate (per 1,000 home population)	14.3	20.3

The births exceeded the deaths by 12.

INFECTIOUS DISEASES

As can be seen from the table, the following infectious diseases were notified during the year.

Notifiable	Total 1972	Total 1973	Under 1 yr	15/25	Age Unkown
Measles	104	1	-	-	1
Dysentery	1	Nil	-	-	-
Acute Meningitis	1	Nil	-	-	-
Food Poisoning	Nil	2	1	1	-
Total	106	3	1	1	1

The total number of cases of infectious diseases notified during the year was 3 compared with 106 for 1972. It is gratifying to note the reduction in infectious diseases in 1973 and unlike 1972 there was not a measles epidemic.

TUBERCULOSIS

The following table shows the number of cases on the register at the beginning and end of 1973.

	Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary		Total
	Males	Females	Males	Females	
Number on register on 1st January, 1973	-	2	2	-	4
Number on register on 31st December, 1973	-	3	2	-	5

1 Female (Pulmonary was added to the register in 1973)

ANTHRAX

There were no cases of Anthrax reported during the year.

BRUCELLOSIS

No human or animal cases were reported during the year in the area, both human and animal cases have occurred in neighbouring areas.

Milk from all producer/retailers who sell raw milk to the public are taken at least every quarter by the County Public Health Inspector. Measures are being introduced to eradicate this disease from cattle, and until this reservoir of infection is eliminated, those who drink raw (untreated) milk will run the risk of contracting this insidious disease, which can lead to chronic ill-health.

PREVENTION OF INFECTIOUS DISEASES

The following shows the number protected by prophylactic measures:-

	Primary	Booster
Diphtheria Whooping Cough Tetanus	24	-
Poliomyelitis (Sabin)	21	23
Measles	14	-
Diphtheria & Tetanus	-	17
Rubella	59	-

TUBERCULOSIS - B.C.G. VACCINATION

	Brynhyfryd Comprehensive School
Number of children tested:	141
Number of children found to be positive:	4
Number of children found to be negative and given B.C.G. vaccination:	133

Those found positive were followed up by Chest X Ray examination, and their families were also investigated. The 4 positive reactors demonstrate the continuing presence of tubercle or closely related bacilli in the enviroment.

The figures above include children from outside the area.

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES IN THE AREA

FOOD

The number of food premises in the Borough is as follows:-

General Food Premises	39
Butchers Shops	7
Bakehouses	3
Public Houses	10
Hotels with restaurant	4
Licensed Clubs	3
School Canteens	5
Other Canteens	2
Slaughter Houses	1
Cafes	9
Fried Fish Shops	3
Vans & Stalls	1

UNSOUND FOOD

The undermentioned foodstuffs were certified as being unfit for human consumption:-

Frozen Poultry	74 lb
Other Frozen Foods	2 lb
Canned Meats	12 lb
Canned Fish	5 lb
Canned Vegetables	15 lb
Canned Fruit/Fruit Juice	47 lb
Other Canned Foods	6 lb

SLAUGHTERHOUSE

Meat Inspection

During the year some 250 visits were made to the slaughterhouse for the purpose of meat inspection and as can be seen from comparison of the figures shown below, approximately the same annual through put is being maintained.

1973 statistics	Cattle excluding Cows	Cows	Calves	Sheep & Lambs	Pigs
Number of animals killed	1664	20	1	6252	1047
Number of animals inspected	1664	20	1	6252	1047
All diseases except Tuberculosis and cysticerci					
Whole carcases condemned	3	NIL	1	12	6
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	159	9	NIL	591	96

Continued.....

	Cattle excluding Cows	Cows	Calves	Sheep & Lambs	Pigs
Tuberculosis only					
Whole carcase condemned	NIL	NIL	NIL	NIL	NIL
Carcase of which some part or organ was condemned	NIL	NIL	NIL	NIL	16
Cysticerci					
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	3	NIL	NIL	NIL	NIL
Carcases submitted to refrigeration	2	NIL	NIL	NIL	NIL
Generalised and totally condemned	NIL	NIL	NIL	NIL	NIL
Number of animals killed during 1972	1303 (including cows)		1	7529	1053

MEAT CONDEMNED

The following meat and offal was condemend as being unfit for human consumption.

Beef Liver	1600 lb
Sheep Liver	1050 lb
Pigs Liver	328 lb
Beef carcase meat and other organs	2835 lb
Sheep carcase meat and other organs	568 lb
Pigs carcase meat and other organs	1089 lb
Calf carcase meat	40 lb

ICE CREAM

There are no manufactuers of ice cream operating in the Borough and no samples were taken during the year.

WATER SUPPLY

The area is served either from the Bathafan supply or the Efail Newydd bore hole supply. Weekly sample reports were submitted by the West Denbighshire and West Flintshire Water Board, on two occassions unsatisfactory samples were obtained and repeat samples proved satisfactory.

IMPROVEMENT GRANTS

During the year 3 Standard Grants and 5 Improvement Grant applications were approved.

HOUSING

During 1973, there were no Council Houses built in the Borough. There are, however, 519 houses owned by the Council out of a total of 1739 rated houses.

The number of private houses and bungalows completed during the year was 26.

The number of Council Houses in the area is as follows:-

Houses	4 bedroomed	1
	3 bedroomed	374
	2 bedroomed	42
	1 bedroomed	4
Bungalows	2 bedroomed	70
	1 bedroomed	-
Flats	1 bedroomed	8
	2 bedroomed	20
		519

Plans have now been approved for the construction of a further 32 units for the elderly. Work was also started on a scheme of improvement to 134 pre war Council Houses.

PUBLIC CONVENIENCES

Regular cleaning and repair to these premises has maintained satisfactory standards. Each premises was completely redecorated during the year.

SEWERAGE AND SEWAGE DISPOSAL

A report has now been completed, recommending reconstruction of certain sewers in the Borough and for the treatment works extension. The Council have adopted this report which is to be passed on to the Welsh National Water Development Authority for implementation.

ANALYTICAL REPORT ON FINAL EFFLUENT FROM THE RUTHIN SEWAGE WORKS

11 samples taken
results of which were:- 6 satisfactory
3 borderline
2 unsatisfactory.

REFUSE COLLECTION

A satisfactory weekly collection of approximately 2,200 bins was maintained, the collection rota having been revised to distribute the work load more evenly. Four men using one vehicle collect household refuse each day except Monday, when an additional workman is needed to complete the days work.

The Tractor and Trailer is now only used for special collections for which a charge is made, trade waste and salvage is dealt with in this way. There is now a need for a review of the collection system to make provision for a proper salvage and trade waste collection service.

REFUSE DISPOSAL

Ruthin R.D.C. deposited approximately 1350 loads of refuse at the tip during this year. Together with the Borough's own refuse and the ever increasing quantities deposited by other trades people, proper control is becoming difficult without improved facilities.

Drainage works will have to be carried out if future use of this tip is to be planned. There is also a need for proper security fencing to be erected and for a machine to be purchased to be used in more regular covering up of refuse.

An area of the tip which has been fenced off for use by residents in depositing garden refuse etc., has proved successful, but unauthorised random tipping is still taking place during the evenings and at weekends. Tipping has now ceased on the southerly flank of the tip and the face has been covered with soil in preparation for further landscaping and tree planting.

RODENT CONTROL

During the year a total of 57 premises were visited following notification. 32 premises found to be infested by rats and 28 by mice were successfully treated.

FACTORIES ACT 1961

Prescribed Particulars on the Administration of the Factories Act 1961.

PART I OF THE ACT

1. INSPECTIONS for the purposes of provisions as to health.

Premises	No. on Register	Inspections	No. of Written Notices	Occupiers Prosecuted
(i) Factories in which Sections 1,2,3,4 & 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities	-	-	-	-
(ii) Factories not included in (i) in which section 7 is enforced by Local Authority	31	7	-	-
(iii) Other Premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding out-workers' premises	12	2	-	-
Total	43	9	-	-

2. - Cases in which DEFECTS were found - NIL

THE OFFICES, SHOPS AND RAILWAYS PREMISES
ACT 1963

TABLE A

REGISTRATIONS AND GENERAL INSPECTIONS

Class of premises	Number of premises newly registered during the year.	Total number of registered premises at the end of the year.	Number of registered premises receiving one or more general inspections during the year.
Offices	NIL	25	4
Retail Shops	2	54	20
Wholesale shops, warehouses	NIL	1	NIL
Catering establishments open to the public, canteens	NIL	7	4
Fuel storage depots	NIL	NIL	NIL
	2	87	28

TABLE B

Number of visits of all kinds (including general inspections) to registered premises 51

TABLE C

Analysis by workplace of persons employed in Registered Premises at the end of year

Class of Workplace	No. of persons employed
Offices	115
Retail Shops	205
Wholesale departments, warehouses	5
Catering establishment open to the public	25
Canteens	NIL
Fuel storage depots	NIL
Total	350
Total/Males	166
Total/Females	184

PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES IN THE AREA

LABORATORY SERVICES

The Public Health Laboratory at Conway carries out bacteriological examinations of water, food, etc., to detect any contamination. Milk is also examined bacteriologically and biologically for the presence of tubercle bacilli and brucella abortus.

Examination of throat swabs, blood, faeces etc., are carried out to detect the presence of bacteria and viruses at Conway Public Health Laboratory and specimens have also been accepted at Rhyl Hospital Laboratory.

AMBULANCE SERVICE

The following is given for the information of the Council, and the numbers refer to cases conveyed by the various ambulances and the mileage covered during the year.

No. of Patients conveyed	Denbigh/ Ruthin	Llanrwst	Pentrefoelas	Totals
By Ambulance	13,388	3,178	89	16,655
By Car	979	1,631	1,354	3,964
Total Mileage				
By Ambulance	137,906	35,231	5,246	178,483
By Car	18,893	36,239	26,574	81,706
No of Ambulances per Station	7	1	1	9
Type of Staff	8 full time	2 full time 3 Vol.	6 Vol.	10 full time 9 Vol.
No. of Cars	6	6	3	15

Area Summary	Number of Journeys	Number of Patients	Total Mileage
Ambulances	4,340	16,655	178,483
Cars	1,736	3,964	81,706
	6,076	20,619	260,189

CHILD GUIDANCE CLINICS

Clinics are held as follows:-

Bod Difyr, Cefn Road, Colwyn Bay	Wednesday & Friday by appointment
Kelso House, Grosvenor Road, Wrexham	Tursday and Friday by appointment
Mercier House Clinic, Russell Road, Rhyl	Monday by appointment.

CHILD HEALTH CENTRE

A child health session is held every Tuesday afternoon between 1.30 and 3.30 p.m. at the Clinic, Mount Street, Ruthin, and is very well attended.

(a) First Attendances:

Year of Birth	Number attended
1973	120
1972	113
1971/68	151
	384 (360)

(b) Total attendances:

Under 1 year	664
1 - 5 years	334
	998 (943)

Figures in brackets show corresponding numbers for 1972.

The number of first attendances at the Child Health Clinic was 384 compared with 360 in 1972. The total attendances were 998 compared with 943 in 1972.

Special transport to the clinic is provided from the outlying districts of Erryrys, Llanferres and Maeshafn, where there are no convenient buses. The number carried during the year were as follows:-

	Number of visits	Number carried	
		Mothers	Babies
From Llanarmon-Yn-Ial, Llanferres and Maeshafn to Ruthin	10	38	38

CHEST CLINIC

Patients from the area attend the Chest Clinic held every Wednesday morning at the Denbigh Infirmary and at the weekly clinics held at The Chest Clinic, Grosvenor Road, Wrexham, and at the Royal Alexandra Hospital Rhyl.

DENTAL CLINIC

Regular Dental Clinics are held at Mount Street, Ruthin, Monday and Wednesday. Dental inspections of children were carried out at schools in the area. It was noted that some children were being well cared for by local Dental Practitioners. Those pupils whose parents desired them to be treated by the school dental service were offered appointments at Mount Street Clinic where both routine dental treatment and specialist orthodentic treatment are available in a modern well equiped dental surgery.

SCHOOL OPHTHALMIC CLINIC

Clinics for school children are held at the Clinic, Middle Lane, Denbigh by appointment, and children attend ophthalmic clinics at Denbigh and St. Asaph Hospitals.

SPEECH THERAPY CLINICS

This is held by appointment weekly at the Ruthin Clinic. Children are referred from school by Teachers, Health Visitors and through the Medical Officers. General Practitioners also refer children to this clinic. The clinic is much appreciated by the parents who learn how to cope with a speech defect in their children.

CARE OF THE AGED

No action was required to be taken under Section 47 of the National Assistance Act.

CHIROPODY CLINIC

This clinic is held at the Clinic, Mount Street, Ruthin, every Wednesday morning by appointment. Patients are referred to this clinic by General Practitioners, Health Visitors and District Nurses. A charge of 13p per treatment is made. The number of persons who attend this clinic during the year was as follows:-

Number of sessions held:	106
Number of appointments made:	740
Number of attendances:	622

A new chiropodist commenced duties in September, 1973

FAMILY PLANNING CLINIC

The Ruthin F.P.A. Clinic how holds only one session per month on the 4th Thursday evening from 7 o'clock to 8.30 o'clock.

There were 40 new patients during 1973 of these 21 were referred to the clinic by friends, 10 by the Family Doctor, 6 F.P.A. transfers, 2 were officially referred, and 1 from other sources.

11 patients were within the age group 25/29, 10 within 20/24 years, 9 within 30/34 years, 5 were over 34 years, and 5 were under 20 years.

17 patients had had 2 pregnancies, 16 had had no pregnancies, 5 had 1 pregnancy, 1 had had 4 pregnancies and 1 had had 3 pregnancies.

Clinics are held at the following:-

County Council Clinic, Mount Street, Ruthin.	4th Thursday in month 7.00 - 8.30 p.m.
The Clinic, Middle Lane, Denbigh.	1st Tuesday in month 2.00 - 3.00 p.m.
The Clinic, King Street, Mold.	Tuesday 6.30p.m. - 8.30 p.m. Thursday 9.00 a.m. - 12 noon
Nant-Y-Glyn Clinic, Colwyn Bay	Monday 2.30 - 3.30 p.m. Thursday 7.00 - 8.30 p.m.
The Clinic, Fforddlas, Rhyl	Wednesday 7.00 - 8.30 p.m.
Grosvenor Road, Wrexham	Wednesday 6.45 p.m. - 8.45 p.m. Thursday 2.00 - 3.30 p.m.

CERVICAL CYTOLOGY CLINIC

Clinics are held as follows:

1 Grosvenor Road, Wrexham	Thursday 5.30 - 8.00 p.m. By appointment only
Nant Y Glyn Clinic, Colwyn Bay	Monday 5.00 p.m. - 7.00 p.m. By appointment only
The Clinic, Market Street, Abergele	Tuesday 5.00 - 7.00 p.m. By appointment only
The Clinic, Middle Lane Denbigh	2nd Tuesday in Month 1.30 p.m. - 4.00 p.m.

Also by General Practitioners.

VENEREAL DISEASE CLINIC

H.M. Stanley Hospital, St. Asaph	Tuesday	4.30 - 6.30 p.m.
War Memorial Hospital, Wrexham	Monday (Males	4.00 - 6.00 p.m.
	Wednesday (Males & Females)	4.00 - 6.00 p.m.
	Friday (Males & Females)	4.00 - 6.00 p.m.
Llandudno General Hospital	Thursday	2.15 - 7.00 p.m.

NURSING SERVICES

The following are the names and addresses of the nursing staff serving the Borough:

Health Visitors:	Miss C.J. Davies	County Council Clinic, Mount Street, Ruthin, Denbs. Tel. No. Ruthin 2361/2
	Mrs. E. Jones	
Tuberculosis Health Visitor:	Mrs. M. Lloyd Jones	The Chest Clinic, Grosvenor Road, Wrexham. Tel. No. Wrx 4242
District Nurses and Midwives:	Mrs. L.I. Jones	Frondeg, Erryrys. Tel. No. Llanarmon 640
	Miss E. Owen	22, Tyn Y Parc, Ruthin Tel. No. Ruthin 2642
	Miss G. Thomas	Flat 84, Haulfryn, Ruthin Tel. No. Ruthin 2011
Relief District Nurse:	Mrs. M.E. Dowell Fairfield, Stanley Road, RUTHIN. Tel. No. Ruthin 2489	